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1. [EDI also spells DIE, the likely result of woke medicine](#)

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Body

Diversity, inclusion, and equity are among the leading buzzwords these days. Put together, they spell DIE, although some prefer DEI or EDI. Acronym-inflaters sometimes go with JEDI, by adding "justice," here referring not to the justice system that enforces laws and punish crime, but rather to social justice, climate justice, or some other idea of justice.

Despite the progressive connotations of the words it stands for, the acronym JEDI has provoked controversy among the wokest of the woke for its connection to Star Wars. In an article earlier this fall in Scientific American, five researchers complained that Star Wars "has a problematic cultural legacy" involving sexism and racism, and, demonstrating their woke cheerlessness, they denounced the Jedi as "prone to (white) saviorism and toxically masculine approaches." The Star Wars heroes, they said, are "inappropriate mascots for social justice" and therefore unworthy of sharing a name with justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives.

When a few nutty writers put an article into a science publication denouncing Star Wars as racist, the main result may be to cause anybody reading the article and seeing the biographies of the authors to become skeptical of the merits of public funding for universities. In other cases, however, the woke-ification of much of the scientific community - in large part due to the politicization of science and government control of research dollars - has far more dire consequences.

The American Medical Association, for example, recently published a 54-page language guide to advance what it calls health equity. It is a great disservice to all. The ongoing politicization of medicine, as George Mason University economist Alex Tabarrok notes, is dangerous and deadly. But "instead of trying to depoliticize medicine, the AMA has doubled down and is going full woke."

Its language guide is so outlandish, Tabarrok writes, that at first he thought it was satire.

According to the AMA, doctors who want to inform their patients of high mortality rates among Native Americans should begin with the preamble that Native Americans were "dispossessed by the government of their land and culture." Instead of saying that "low-income people have the highest level of coronary artery disease," doctors are now to say that "people underpaid and forced into poverty as a result of banking policies, real estate developers gentrifying neighbourhoods, and corporations weakening the power of labour movements, among others, have the highest level of coronary artery disease."

Visit the doctor for a checkup, get a lecture in woke socialism instead. The predictable effects of having doctors pontificate about social justice and spout nonsense about economics are both to erode trust in doctors and to reduce the time they have available to actually practice medicine. Unlike nutty science writers complaining about Star Wars, the AMA's ambitions for advancing DIE could really cause more people to die.

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In Canada, too, the pervasiveness of woke interpretations of DIE causes significant consternation. As reported in the Post last week, Patanjali Kambhampati, a McGill University chemistry professor whose research into lasers has applications in many fields, including medicine, had two federal research grant applications rejected on the grounds that "the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion considerations in the application were deemed insufficient." Yet Kambhampati's policy to hire the most qualified applicants as research assistants - "I don't care about the colour of your skin," he said - is entirely reasonable, equitable, and inclusive.

So long as resources are finite, people must be included or excluded from research positions based on some criteria. The question is whether to use relevant criteria, such as qualifications and skills, or irrelevant criteria of the type enforced by woke bureaucrats. Notably, while hiring based on qualifications can get professors blacklisted from federal programs, taxpayers are funding a \$1.2 million research grant for a Lakehead University professor to study the efficacy of Indigenous healing to prevent cancer. The professor in question proposes that we should "think of cancer as a symptom of colonialism."

Demonstrating that her demotion from health minister to Indigenous services minister was richly deserved - that she remains in any position of power is frightening - Liberal MP Patty Hajdu took to Twitter to congratulate the Lakehead professor on the \$1.2 million. "I look forward to hearing and learning from your work and findings," Hajdu wrote. The rest of us, meanwhile, look forward to the day when science and medicine are no longer shackled by woke enforcements of DIE. The McGill chemistry professor's non-woke hiring policies, which exclude only the unqualified, are far fairer, more sensible and better for science than the woke approach.

Matthew Lau is a Toronto writer. !@COPYRIGHT=© 2021 Postmedia Network Inc. All rights reserved.

Graphic

Walt Disney Pictures; Rey (Daisy Ridley) in Star Wars: Episode IX, a franchise which is now being attacked for racism and sexism.;

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